

NEW YEAR OFFERINGS IN NEW YORK THEATRES

Several New Plays Presented to Public—Farce Comedy Favorite Form of Entertainment.

NEW YORK, January 5.—Two wholly farcical plays that whirled into New York on New Year's Eve had realistic "off-feels" that they didn't need. The storm is the most remarkable sight in "Brewster's Millions," and the sudden shower in "Caught in the Rain" are among the most widely discussed of recent stage spectacles; yet they contribute nothing to the fun of the plays in which they figure. The play which William Collier and Grant Stewart have written for Collier to star in, is so inconsequential, dramatically, that it might be dismissed in a contemptuous paragraph; yet "Caught in the Rain" probably will bring in more money, by merely tickling more people, than either of the brainy comedies which Richard Harding Davis and Augustus Thomas provided for him. This farce happened in this way: Collier was playing across America on the route to Australia. In his company was Grant Stewart, not much of an actor, but a facile writer of humorous sketches. In Denver, they saw a girl caught by a sudden shower. She didn't mind the rain much, as an awning gave shelter, and she was a duck of a girl, anyway; nor did the dangerous lightning scare her, for wasn't she accustomed to electric illumination? But with illogical femininity, she was terrified by the noiseless thunder. A young man came along. Perhaps it was one of the actors, but probably it was not, for he was inclined to be bashful, and run away when the girl—sorry it, like a stage heroine by a vivid flash of lightning, and made an emotional actress by a deafening clap of thunder—saw upon the stranger and implored him to save her.

"There's the play we've been talking about," said Collier to Stewart, or maybe it was Stewart said it to Collier, for I am guessing at the details. But there was the start and the title of "Caught in the Rain." The incident is set forth, with street commotion hurried or halted by the shower; the natural phenomena imitated finely; the rain dripping from the front sky-border, and the encounter of Willie Collier and Nanette Comstock taking place with humid illusion.

The comedy which tucks on in a rain is for the rest a matter of verbal smartness. Collier and Stewart were born in the same period as Davis and Thomas, but not in the same world of dramatic genius. However, they face audiences year in and year out, as the other "don't," and like monologuists in vaudeville, they know how to get the laughs, and the acquaintance of the fellow and the girl runs on from the meeting by chance to a betrothal, with no particular worth reading, but with a continuous entertainment of pun, repartee and other fun of kinds which Collier can deliver with great facility. He delivers the goods—that is to say, himself; and they are of a kind which the public buys with all the eagerness of shoppers at a bazaar sale.

"Brewster's Millions" Dramatized. It took five authors and as many more intimately interested advisers to make a play out of the vastly popular novel "Brewster's Millions" and Frederick Thompson saw at the first reading of George Barr McCutcheon's story of a man who had to spend every cent of a million dollars in one year in order to inherit seven times that sum, an opportunity for an extraordinary presentation of a yacht in a storm, and set to work to build a play around it. Finding that a little out of his line, he employed a well known American dramatist to do the job, and though his name does not figure on the program, it is fair to assume that some of his work appears on the stage. The making of the farce is credited wholly to Winchell Smith and Byron Ongley, rather inconspicuous actors who are new at play-writing. Just how much of the piece is theirs is not so much to the point as the fact that any share in the making of a play so merrily diverting is creditable.

The farce that the storm at sea interrupts, just at the moment when its novel scheme seems likely to become tedious from repetition, exhausts every possible twist to the reckless spending of a million dollars, and with its sole deliberate purpose of causing laughter, incidentally satirizes the frenzied finance spirit of the age. And with all its wild extravagance of idea it maintains a semblance of plausibility. That is one of the good reasons why the play is destined to prolonged popularity. When the whimsical

proposition of spending a million dollars in a year, in order to inherit seven more, is made to a young man who is then celebrating his first good fortune with a house-warming party, he scoffs at it. But a sort of plausibility is given to the condition in the second will, and a sentimental reason to his compliance with it by the explanation that the first money comes from a grandfather, who had been miserly to the young man's needy mother before her pitiful death; while the seven millions comes from a recently enriched uncle, who resented the dead old man's hardness to his daughter, and requires that none of his money shall benefit that poor woman's son.

"The Road to Yesterday" a Pure Phantasy.

How "The Road to Yesterday" got on the stage I don't know and cannot imagine, for dream plays are under management, and women are disordered as dramatists, and the subject of this work is its heroine's nightmares, while its writers, programmed as B. M. Dix and E. G. Sutherland, have Dehlin and Evelyn for first names. These women are disordered as dramatists, and the subject of this work is its heroine's nightmares, while its writers, programmed as B. M. Dix and E. G. Sutherland, have Dehlin and Evelyn for first names. These women are disordered as dramatists, and the subject of this work is its heroine's nightmares, while its writers, programmed as B. M. Dix and E. G. Sutherland, have Dehlin and Evelyn for first names.

Weber's New Show Makes Hit.

New York "Society's" caprice of going to one of the female minstrelsy shows at a cheap and smoky concert hall was a topic in my letter of three Sundays ago. The surprised company of muggers and chair-warmers, instead of moving on at the end of one week, as it did last season, stays indefinitely where it is. This proves that our various smart sets are ready for a change in theatrical enjoyment, but that a new departure will be made in a downward direction, for their incline is upward, rather. But who and what will catch them on the rise? Joe Weber hopes to win "The Magic Knight" and "Droon City." He is making a costly try for it. Victor Herbert is, I understand, the most money-making music-maker in America, as his orchestra is as prosperous as Sousa's, his compositions sell as well in the stores, and this season he has half a dozen scores in theatrical use to the March King's one. So Herbert must have come high to Weber. It is in "The Magic Knight" that the value of Herbert as a composer, as musical humorist, and Weber may have bought a ticket that will win the fashionable day prize.

Burlesque of grand opera has been common in negro minstrelsy, vaudeville and extravaganza these fifty years and more, but seldom has it been witty, or contained other than crude fun. The libretto of "The Magic Knight" is a travesty of "Lohengrin," but the Herbert score is not made up of unassimilated selections from Wagner's music, but of what may be termed original plagiarism—a stealing of notes and a forcing of them into counterpoint, a succession of keen, droll, musical jokes. The oddity in this mockery of Wagner is that, in the attempt to catch "society" by its musically cultured ears, and lead it back to the music hall, which it had abandoned, the matter is rendered in a genuinely grand operatic fashion. A prima donna of the first-class, Lillian Blauvelt, of Covent Garden record in London and Metropolitan Opera House, in New York, is the Elsa in a collection of vocal solos. "It is up to me," Miss Blauvelt sings at her entrance, "to make good as a human canary"; she greets Lohengrin with a trill of "Oh, Look Who's Here"; she denounces to the King, "Sweetest, for you-once-outrage, and never for an instant does she behave unlike a Wagnerian prima donna in serious service. The beauties and the absurdities of Wagner grand opera are illustrated simultaneously.

Swedish Pig Iron Trust. Consul R. S. S. Bergh, of Gottenborg, says that it is reported that the recently organized Aktiebolaget Jernexport is intended to be a combination of several of the largest Swedish iron works producing pig iron and iron ore briquettes, as well as of producers of steel and Lancashire iron, for the purpose of reducing their competition with one another in foreign markets.

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German Workmen's Insurance. Consul Frank S. Hannah, writing from Magdeburg, says that on November 17th was celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the workmen's insurance by Emperor William I. This insurance, which is compulsory, is designed to assist the laboring classes when they are incapacitated for work, owing to accident, sickness, or old age, and has been in the past twenty-five years to be one of the largest and most beneficial systems of insurance ever devised. During this period over \$32,000,000 has been paid out to 60,000,000 people. The small premiums for this insurance, which are paid by the cancellation of stamps and the accruing personal benefits, etc., were treated in detail in Mr. Hannah's report last year in a special publication by the Bureau of Manufactures entitled, "Life Insurance in Foreign Countries."

Woman at Her Best. A woman's character and powers are finest about forty. A woman has gained everything at forty and lost nothing; she is at the full vigor of her intellectual powers, and with acquired experience and judgment, and is not far enough away from youth to have become unsympathetic even to its wildest vagaries.—The Bystander.

WEALTH OF SOUTH IN FARM PRODUCTS

(Continued From First Page.)

\$300,021,425, was more than half the value of its cotton crop, and nearly a third of the total value, \$1,166,828,479, of the corn crop of the country. The Southern crop, 728,900,000 bushels, was within a few million of a quarter of the total crop, 2,927,416,001 bushels, of the country. "Less than half a dozen of the Southern States can be classed as wheat-growing ones, though that grain was maintained last year in all of them but Florida. Here Texas, which led the South in corn-growing, also led in wheat-growing, with 11,126,185 bushels, taking the place which Maryland held in 1905. The South increased its production from 62,923,944 bushels in 1905 to 78,869,529 bushels, while the whole country made a less increase proportionately, from 92,972,493 bushels to 105,290,470 bushels. At the same time, the total value of the Southern wheat crop increased from \$56,290,021 to \$62,290,474, while the value for the whole country decreased from \$137,372,717 to \$146,290,474. Every State, except Maryland and Mississippi, showed an increased production, and there is no reason why the total for the South might not be doubled with profit to the growers.

Hay and Tobacco. "The hay crop of the country was valued at \$592,530,671, nearly \$8,000,000 greater than the value of the wheat crop. But the proportion of the South, whose hay crop brought \$4,990,200, less than a per cent of the total for the country, \$592,530,671, though the crop itself was nearly 200,000 tons less in 1906 than in 1905, and amounted to 4,211,113 tons of the total, 57,145,909 tons, of the country, was valued at \$262,578. In tobacco, though still preponderant as a producer, 467,615,880 of the total, 622,428,530 pounds, raised in the whole country, being its share, the South had in 1906 a less favorable showing to its credit as to values than had the country at large. For its more than 67,000,000 pounds brought less than \$4,000,000, while the 215,000,000 pounds in the rest of the country brought nearly \$29,000,000.

The comparatively small oat crop of the South, 64,701,635 bushels, valued at \$2,241,394, out of the total in the country, 964,904,322 bushels, valued at \$262,578, finds explanation in the facts about the hay crop, involving, of course, the fact that cotton-seed products are fed to stock more largely in the South than elsewhere, and also the fact that the South is not raising as much stock as it should.

Potatoes and Rice. "Pennsylvania alone raised in 1906 nearly as many Irish potatoes as all the four Southern States, whose crop was 24,231,546 bushels, valued at \$7,199,239, the crop being something more than one-thirtieth of the total, 208,083,282 bushels, of the whole country, and its value being nearly a third of the value of the whole crop, \$24,231,546, valued at \$7,199,239. There is indication in that that the South is capable of doing much better as an Irish potato grower, though it already produces probably 80 per cent. of the sweet potatoes of the country.

"The South raises all the rice of the country, and the rice crop was 17,257,738 bushels, valued at \$18,121,226, the quantity exceeding that of 1905 by nearly 5,000,000 bushels, and the value being nearly \$4,000,000 greater than that of the preceding year."

BLACKSBURG HAS HAD GOOD YEAR

(Continued From First Page.)

a sea of mud and water, accessible by boat only in bad weather; a new sidewalk along the east side of Main Street, a liberal coating of paint and whitewash for all parts of the town, and some practicable steps taken towards a general improvement of the town's water supply, with adequate protection against fire. Sad experience has shown how helpless the citizens are when fire breaks out, and it is much to be regretted that this experience has so far been unheeded. Water drawn from wells in business districts, and carried to hand has proven to be poor equipment for fighting fire.

New Invention for Oil Motors.

Consul R. S. S. Bergh sends the report from Gottenborg that J. Hesselman, a civil engineer in the employ of the gas motor manufacturing firm, Aktiebolaget Diesels Motoren, at Slicka, Sweden, has made an invention by which a gas motor can be reversed by a device within the motor itself, when kerosene or raw oil is used for motive power. It is remarked that if this invention is all it is claimed to be, it is very important, and will open a wide field for the use of such motors as marine engines, because they are so easy to handle, compared with steam engines.

A New Advertising Agency.

The Messenlake Advertising Agency, of Atlanta, has established a branch office in the Bank of Richmond building, the resident manager being E. H. Mayfield, who is well known here.

American Purchases at Grenoble.

Consul C. P. H. Nason writes from Grenoble, France, that the declared exports to the United States to the United States during the last half of 1906 amounted to \$1,176,473, and consisted of the following principal articles: kid gloves, valued at \$613,881; photographic paper, \$127,126; walrus ivory, \$27,691; ferro silicon, \$47,697; marble, \$29,825; chrome, \$25,498; and uncrushed emery, \$14,237.

It's a Shame to Tease Him.

"I do not control one mile of railroad. I do not believe in one man or any one company controlling vast interests of this kind."—E. H. Harriman.

I know some things of railroads; they are, so to speak, my life. But I'm interested only in an academic way. I don't control a mile of road; I think it would be wrong for any man or set of men to grow so very strong.

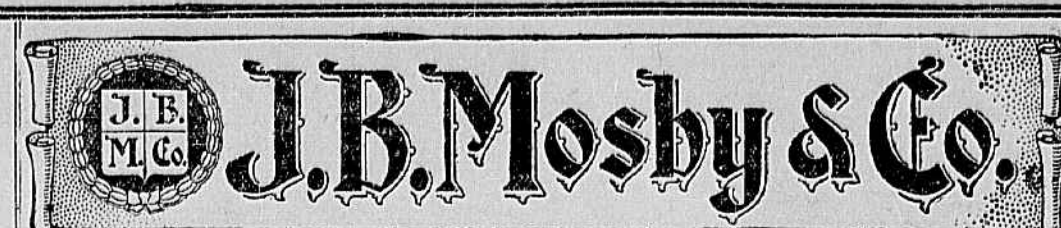
A man who owned a railroad or controlled a railroad might be tempted now and then to do a thing which he would not do if he were a free man. He might turn the market upside down, as he pleased, or he might fleece his fellow-man and line his pockets with the fleece.

He might meddle with insurance and bring into disrepute our most sacred institutions through his appetite for loot. Good gracious, yes; a bold bad man with power of that nature might even go so far as to corrupt the legislature.

And that is why, despite the fact that railroads are not in an academic way, I am interested only in an academic way. I often say to Gould and Hill I think it would be wrong for any man or set of men to be so very strong.

Only seven of Shakespeare's plays, according to Hall Caine, are worth saving. Caine may have written seven words worth saving, but we seem to have difficulty in recalling them.—Puck.

January
Clearance
Sale with
Halved
Prices



Our
Annual
White Sale
with
unlimited
Saving
Opportunities

A Clearance Sale of Coats, Suits, Etc.

The Clearance Knife Goes Deeper—Prices One Half to One Third of What They Were.

Not an old garment in the lot—every one new, fresh, and all have been our best sellers. No matter about that now—they must be moved out, and that at once. Their style, quality and real worth are enough to commend them to every intelligent shopper; but with prices that they are now marked at we are certain that they will double-quick from here.

Another Cut in Suits.

The balance of our entire stock of this season's newest and choicest Ladies' Suits, of BROADCLOTH, CHEVIOTS, VELVETS, ENGLISH AND FANCY MIXTURES etc., consisting of the finest lot of high-grade Suits offered this season divided into six lots.

Marked at One Half or Less Their Former Price. Not an Old Suit in the Lot.

Lot No. 1—Suits were \$27.50 and \$24.50, now \$ 0.08
Lot No. 2—Suits were \$29.50, now 12.08
Lot No. 3—Suits were \$39.50 and \$35.00, now 15.08
Lot No. 4—Suits were \$47.50 and \$45.00, now 10.08
Lot No. 5—Suits were \$49.50, now 24.50
Lot No. 6—Suits were \$65.00 and \$55.00, now 29.50

No Suits Sent on Approval During This Sale.

A Coat Sale At Unheard-Of Prices.

\$24.50 and \$20 Fancy Mixture Coats at \$9.98

This entire stock of long fancy mixture Coats, in checks or plaids, light or dark colors, materials best all-wool cloakings, in a large variety of styles and the proper stylish length of coat. Prices were \$24.50 and \$20.00, now \$9.98.

\$39.50, \$35, \$29.50 and \$24.50 Long Tan Covert Coat, Now \$9.98

These are the greatest bargains we have ever offered in a coat; made either 3-4 or full length; finely tailored; either tight, semi-loose-fitting; some satin lined or half lined. Prices were \$39.50, \$35.00, \$29.50 and \$24.50—marked now at \$9.98.

Black Long Coats at Reduced Prices

Most merchants would consider these staple or possibly might make slight reductions in prices. This is not our way; our stock must be new and fresh every season. There is only one way that this can be done—clean them out every season. No danger whatever of carrying these over, for here are three lots full of styles and goodness, and all at the uniform half prices. These prices tell only half. Examine these garments if you need one. Come early—they will not last long at these prices:

Divided Into Three Lots

Black Coats, were \$24.50, now \$12.50
Black Coats, were \$29.50, now 15.00
Black Coats, were \$36.00, now 19.50

January Sale of Muslin Underwear

The Newest, the Best, the Lowest Priced. Why We Think it Will Be to Your Advantage to Buy Here.

Corset Covers.

At 25c—Three styles of Corset Covers, made of good quality cambric, round neck and full front, trimmed with tulle lace and Hamburg embroidery.

At 49c—Four styles of Corset Covers, made of cambric or nainsook, full front, and trimmed with embroidery, Val lace and heading.

At 75c—Three styles of Corset Covers, made of nainsook and trimmed with Val lace, insertion and embroidery.

Drawers

At 25c—Two styles of Ladies' Drawers, made of cambric, with hemstitched ruffle.

At 49c—Five styles of Ladies' Drawers, made of cambric and nainsook, with ruffles of same, with hemstitched tucks and embroidery.

Skirts

At 89c—Five styles of Skirts, made of cambric, with deep flounce of muslin, hemstitched and trimmed in lace and embroidery.

At \$1.00—Five styles of Muslin Skirts, deep flounce of embroidery, also tucked flounce, with feather stitching.

At \$1.50—Ten styles of Skirts, made of cambric and nainsook, deep flounce of embroidery and also knee flounce, tucked and trimmed with lace and insertion.

Gowns

At 69c—Gowns, made of cambric, with yoke, trimmed in Hamburg embroidery; V and high neck.

At 89c—Six styles of Gowns, made of cambric, square V and round neck, yoke effect, trimmed with lace and embroidery.

Exports of Manufactures From the United States

Exports of manufactures from the United States in the year just ended aggregated more than \$700,000,000. The Bureau of Statistics of the Department of Commerce and Labor has completed the figures for the eleven months ending with November, and adding to these a conservative estimate for December finds that the total exports of manufactures for the full year will, beyond question, exceed \$700,000,000. Ten years ago, in the fiscal year 1896, they amounted to but \$258,000,000; in 1880, but \$145,000,000, and in 1870, \$105,000,000. The share which manufactures formed of the total exports was, in 1906, forty-two per cent; in 1896, thirty per cent; in 1870, twenty per cent.

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January Sale of Embroideries

One Third to One Half Under Price. Swiss Flouncings, Value \$1 and \$1.25, Now . . 59c and 69c

24 inches wide Swiss Flouncings, new and tasty designs, beautifully worked. You have often bought others not near so good at \$1.00 and \$1.25. Special, 59c and 69c.

Bands to match, 39c and 49c.

15-inch Nainsook Skirt Flouncings, in new and very tasty designs; value 50c. Special, 29c.

Baby Sets

In Nainsook and Swiss, new, dainty patterns, extra good value—16-2-3c, 20c, 25c, 35c and 75c.

All-overs to match, \$1.50 to \$5.00 yard.

Our Own Importation High Grade Embroideries

Kinds and styles shown only here—exclusively designs in Swiss, Batiste, etc.—daintily worked; some with baby Irish, Fillet and Cluny medallions. Prices, \$1.00 to \$5.00 yard.

Bands, medallions and festoons to match, 75c to \$3.00 yard.

January White Sale

At Less Than Importation Prices

Checked Organdies, new and tasty patterns, regularly 16 2-3c. Special, 12 1-2c.

40-inch Mercerized Lawns, highly finished, an excellent washer and wearer; value 25c. Special, 16 2-3c.

Plaid Muslins, in an immense assortment of new and stylish patterns, 17c, 25c, 50c.

Mercerized Fancies, entirely new ideas; special values, 19c, 25c, 29c, 39c, 50c.

Embroidered Swisses, in stylish figures, dots and plaids, 50c, 60c, 75c, 85c and \$1.00.

French Lawns—see our special values at 17c, 25c, 29c, 30c, 50c.

Chiffonettes, highly mercerized finish, 40 inches wide; special values, 17c, 25c and 35c.

January Clearance Sale

Of All Odd Lots and Short Lengths at Half and Less Than Half Prices

Remnants of Plain and Fancy Silks, many in waist lengths, at half price.

Remnants of Black and Colored Dress Goods, many in skirt lengths, at half price.

Remnants of Wash Goods, many in dress lengths, at half and less than half price.

Table Linens

With January Clearance Prices

75c Table Damask, 69c.

\$1.00 Table Damask, 69c.

Remnants of Damasks, in good, useful lengths, at greatly reduced prices.

Damask: Cloths and Napkins, slightly soiled from handling, at greatly reduced prices.

High-Grade Laces

At Cleaning-Up Prices

Flaxen, Voile and St. Gall straight and wire bands at one-third of former prices.

Hosiery

Odd and ends from our regular stock, plains and fancies; were 50c, 60c and 75c, now 39c pair.

A Clearing-Up Sale of High-Grade Silks

\$1.00 Silks at 69c.

\$1.50 Moire now 69c.

\$1.50 Grenadines now 69c.

\$1.50 White Satins, 69c.

\$2.00 and \$1.50 Plain Silks, only this season's best sellers, now \$1.00 yard.

\$1.00 Messalines, Diannas and Fancy Broades now 75c.

Remnants of Silks, in good, useful lengths, at half price.

Highly novel effects, new, rich and exclusive, shown only here, \$1.25, \$1.50, \$1.75.

Men's Furnishings

At Greatly Reduced Prices

Boys' Outing Night Shirts, that were 50c, now 39c.

Men's and Boys' Pajamas, of madras and outing, that were \$1.00, now 69c.

12-1-2 Men's and Boys' Linen Collars, all the new shapes, now 9c.

15c Linen Cuffs now 11c.

50c Fancy Mohairs now 29c.

\$1.00 and \$1.25 Fancy Mohairs now 39c.

\$1.00 Silk and Wool Eolienne now 69c.

High-Grade Furs

At Prices to Clean Them Up at Once.

We have on hand about \$500 worth of fine Furs, some in sets, others in Muffs or separate Neckpieces, in Mink, Lynx, Squirrel, Marten, Iceland Fox, Chinchilla, etc. Not enough of any one kind to specify, however, you'll find here just what you want. The saving we guarantee you to be one-half.

Japan's Good Faith.

It is not too much to say that Japan has kept faith with the world in a way

which would reflect credit upon any nation, while the treaty of Portsmouth establishes the fact that the Mikado and his ministers are not afraid to do the right, even at the cost of much public reproach.—The Mariner.